crops including pepper, like increase in production and productivity, post harvest management and marketing, strengthening of infrastructure facilities, organic farming, processing and value addition.

- Issue of advance licenses for import of duty-free pepper has been suspended, except for light pepper.
- Sale of processed pepper products in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) has been banned.
- Spices Board is promoting the recently launched 'Flavourit' brand in order to increase demand of selected grades of pepper.
- Spices Board supports export oriented organic production of pepper.

Transport route for exports from India to China

†1740. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI.
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transport route would be required for exports from India to China *via* Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government held negotiations with Nepal in this regard;

(c) if so, when this negotiation was held; and

(d) the route in Nepal for the said purpose likely to be permitted by Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter was first taken up in the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental (IGC) Meeting held in January, 2004 and the issue was again taken up at the India-Nepal Joint Secretary level meetings held on 1-2 November, 2004.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) So far, no negotiations between India and Nepal have been held regarding the route to be permitted by Nepal.

Non-availability of data regarding export of handloom products

1741. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate export data for the export of handloom products is not available from the year 2003-2004 due to the absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for them;

(b) if so, the reasons for removal of separate ITC codes for the handloom products; and

(c) what is the view of the handloom sector on this?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised ITC (HS) Codes adopted by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance have been formulated for the textile items as a whole without any sectoral classification such as mill made, powerloom and handloom etc.

(c) Separate ITC (HS) codes for Handloom products are essential for segregation of trade data for Handlooms which will help formulate product specific and market specific promotion strategies for Handlooms. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has already taken up the matter and has been constantly pursuing with the Ministry of Finance for allotment of separate ITC codes for the handloom products so as to facilitate monitoring of export trends for augmenting export from the country.

Problems of power loom owners

1742. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that powerloom owners are facing many problems in the country specially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;